

REMARKS

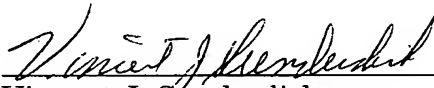
Entry of the amendments to the claims before examination of the application is respectfully requested. These claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response; and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.53098US).

Respectfully submitted,

December 19, 2003



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